

10,000 gardens in Africa project

Crop rotation



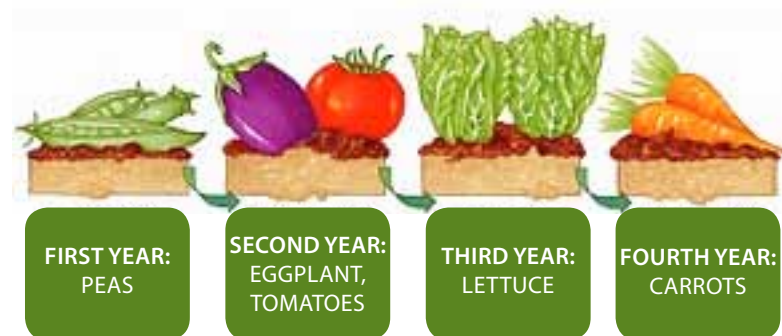
Why carry out crop rotation?

It is important to avoid cultivating the same species year after year in the same spot of the garden (e.g. tomato on tomato). Crop rotation is essential because it alternates plants that deplete the soil and plants that enrich it, thus improving the structure of the soil and interrupting the life cycle of harmful organisms associated with certain crops or weeds. This obviously applies to annual species, not to long-term plants.

How is crop rotation carried out?

For every country and/or climate zone, some proposals related to intercropping will need to be drawn up together during the training sessions together with the local technicians and communities that take into account: local traditions, the possibility of finding/multiplying seeds, and the suitability of the environment.

We suggest you involve the community in the elaboration of tables and/or drawings that will enable you to view some simple sequences that can be easily applied to successive crop cycles, for example:



Here are a few practical suggestions.

A one-year rest period is sufficient for the bean. For basil, red beet and sugar beet, artichoke, carrot, cabbage, chickpea, cucumber, string bean, broad bean, fennel, lettuce, lentil, lupine, potato, pepper, pea, tomato, parsley, radicchio, celery, spinach, zucchini, you should wait at least two years before planting them again on the same plot of land. Watermelon, thistle, onion, eggplant, melon and leek need of a period of three years, while garlic and shallot require at least four years.

It is better to avoid successively cultivating varieties that belong to the same family.

It would be better, therefore, to avoid cultivating:

- other liliaceae after garlic, shallot, leek;
- other cucurbits after watermelon and zucchini;
- other chenopodiaceae after red beet and sugar beet and spinach;
- other composites after artichoke, thistle, lettuce and radish;
- other apiaceae after carrot, fennel, parsley and celery;
- other leguminosae after chickpea, string bean, bean, broad bean, lentil, lupine, pea;
- other crucifers after cabbage;
- other cucurbits after cucumber and melon;
- other solanaceae after potato, pepper, tomato.

These are only indications and may at times not be sufficient. If, for example, garlic is affected by a fungus such as the *fusarium*, before planting it again in the same soil, you have to wait at least ten years.